

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday March 12, 2008
6:30 P.M.
Stephenson County Board Room

The Stephenson County Board met in the Courthouse on Wednesday March 12, 2008. Chairman Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Wire gave the Invocation and Ms. Dotson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll. Members present; Samuel Newton, Bennie Brown, Charles Hilton, Jeffrey Mikkelsen, Debra Devine, Sheila Hooper, Todd McKenna, William Hadley, Donald Parker, Vicki Hooper, James Graham, Alvin Wire, Linda Dotson, Jim Kuhlmeier, Sandra Kubatzke, Lynn Koch, Brenda Boynton, Salvatore Détente, Forrest Senn and John Blum. Members absent: Andrew Kuhlemeier and Russell Cashmore. Twenty members present. Two members absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the agenda as received carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting as received. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting as received carried unanimously.*

CLAIMS ON THE CLERK'S DESK: Ms. V. Hooper made a motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion that all claims on the Clerk's desk be referred to the proper committees without reading carried unanimously.*

COMMUNICATIONS: The Clerk reported the following communications had been received;

- Public Defender Monthly Report for February, 2008; 183 New Cases, 231 Cases Closed and Income to Public Defender Fund \$3,444.08
- Violent Crime Victims Compensation Act Monthly Report
- Comcast notification of a 3.5% increase beginning with March billing statements
- 2007 Annual Financial Report for Otter Creek Lake Utility District
- 2007 Semi-Annual Report for Freeport/Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Thank you from Sherry Gravenstein for retirement gift

Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve all communications and place on file. Second by Mr. Senn. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve all communications and place on file carried unanimously.* Noted arrival of Mr. Cashmore and Mr. Kuhlemeier.

OLD BUSINESS: None

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Snyders reported on the current census at the jail. He will work with Whiteside County in the event they need additional jail space.

HIGHWAY REPORT: Mr. Isbell presented the following Resolutions;

Resolution 08-03-1536 HD08-06 Appropriating Matching Funds for Rock Grove Road District

This resolution approves the Federal Agreement for Sec 05-00169-00-RS. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 08-06. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve HD 08-06 carried unanimously.*

Resolution 08-03-1537 HD08-07 Awarding Low Bidder for West Point Road District

This resolution awards the low bid for Sec 97-17119-00-DR. Mr. J. Kuhlmeier made a motion to approve HD 08-07. Second by Ms. Kubatzke. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Cashmore, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve HD 08-07 carried unanimously.*

Mr. Isbell gave a brief overview of his responsibilities on the committees he serves on at the State level.

ZONING REPORT: Mr. Groves reported there had not been a Zoning Board of Appeals hearing this month.

Winnebago County Forest Preserve District to Own Land in Stephenson County for Grant Funds

The Winnebago County Forest has the opportunity to purchase a large tract of land, through a grant. A portion of that land is in Stephenson County and they need approval to own land inside Stephenson County. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve allowing the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District to own 7.1 acres of land in Stephenson County. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to allow the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District to own land in Stephenson County carried unanimously.*

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH/JANE ADDAMS TRAIL: No Report

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: Mr. Groves reported that a single snow event emergency has been declared by the State and forwarded to the Federal government. He is looking for a seasonal snow declaration. Once a new snowfall record has been established, he will again apply to the State for another snow declaration and then to the Federal government. A letter has been sent to President Bush by our Senators and Congressman in support of such a declaration.

9-1-1 REPORT: Mr. Groves distributed minutes from the February meeting, monthly stats and the “Status of Projects” report. He reported they will begin advertising for the open 9-1-1 Coordinator position.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Beintema reported there have been seven complaints filed regarding the Smoke Free Act. He presented the Food Service Scores and an informational/registration form for the Human Service Conference. Fehr-Graham has evaluated the water problem at the Health Department. The Board of Health will be reviewing the evaluation at their meeting on March 13. Mr. Beintema reported on the 21st Century Needs Study. He encouraged anyone wanting to volunteer for this program to call the Health Department. The Animal Control report was distributed.

NURSING CENTER REPORT: No Report

PROBATION DEPARTMENT REPORT: Mr. Pauley presented caseload totals and updated the Board on detention and placement costs. He reported they are applying for a “Redeploy in Illinois” Training Grant and a Juvenile Accountability Grant. The Department is looking into the cost savings to do their own drug testing.

STATE’S ATTORNEY REPORT: No Report

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: Chairman Blum presented the following report;

- Chairman Blum will present his 6th annual State of the County message at our April 9, 2008 County Board meeting.
- Mayor Gaulrapp and the Chair regularly meet to discuss various issues of concern to both the City and the County. They have both tried to promote collaboration on many fronts when dealing with area and regional issues. Last week Mayor Gaulrapp requested that we pursue a joint meeting between the City Council and the County Board. While this sounds like an easy item to arrange there are a number of issues that would need to be resolved such as Open Meeting requirements, agenda items, location, setting of a special meeting, and so on. The Board gave concurrence for Chairman Blum to ask the County Clerk and the State’s Attorney to provide the most viable scenario to conduct such a meeting.
- Our Local Workforce Investment Board held a regular monthly meeting this morning via teleconference between Highland and Sauk Valley College locations. A copy of the preliminary outcomes statement for the region which is the basic report card on our performance through the 3rd quarter was placed at Board Members desks. Overall we are meeting all standards. One line indicated a failure, but that was due to a computer glitch at the State that was matching wrong social security numbers within their database. In addition, a copy of the ’07 budget performance indicating that almost \$1.4 million of federal grant dollars are flowing into the region to support workforce training was placed at Board Members desks. This is a valuable resource for our County and region.
- As Mr. Groves mentioned earlier about the process to receive a federal snow emergency declaration; a copy of the letter sent to President Bush by our Senators and Congressman in support of such a declaration was placed at Board Members desks. Also, some members from Senator Obama’s office will be coming to Stephenson County tomorrow morning to meet with Chairman Blum to become more

familiar with issues and our projects. He will be giving them a tour of County facilities between about 10 a.m. and noon.

- Tonight we will be acting on the request for expansion of the E-zone for the Ecogrove project. JoDaviess County and the Village of Hanover met last evening and approved the addition. The City of Freeport will be the last to address this issue at their meeting on March 17, 2008. The Zoning Board of Appeals will begin the process of considering a second special-use permit for Ecogrove on March 17, 2008. It is certainly appropriate for County Board members to observe these proceedings, but it is not appropriate for County Board members to provide testimony at the hearing since we collectively sit as judge and jury when the application reaches the County Board. If you have any questions about that process, please direct them to Mr. Groves or Mr. Cook.
- A copy of the Wind Turbine Technician Program being developed at Highland College was placed at Board Members desks. The curriculum has been approved by the State and is now before a national accreditation agency. This will be one of a very few such programs in the country.
- Since our last meeting Chairman Blum has worked with legal counsel to finish the land transfer to the Lena Park District. The documents were finished last week and the attorneys informed the Chair that everything was in order. He gave the documents to the Lena Park District for action at their meeting last Monday night and has received signed copies back from them. He had one final review with Chris Isbell earlier today and plans to sign the revised agreements by tomorrow. All that remains would be the filing of the deed and any easements.
- The Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA) held their bimonthly board meeting yesterday morning. They are still working through the transition to a new Executive Director. Cheryl Kneubuehl has been working as the Interim Director while the search is underway for a permanent director. A copy of the Interim Director's Report from March 11, 2008 was placed at Board Members desks. In addition, the Finance Committee had a discussion with members of the NIDA leadership last Monday evening concerning funding issues that they face and the assistance that will be requested from the County. The County has budgeted \$10,000 for NIDA funding, however they are requesting a total of \$25,000 of near-term funding from the County, including the \$10,000 already budgeted, and an additional \$75,000 during the balance of their operating year. This funding request will be on the Planning and Development Committee agenda for March 31 and the Finance Committee agenda for April 7, 2008. Please think about the importance of our regional economy and what part NIDA can and should play in this effort.
- We continue to work with GVA-Williams on project leads for Mill Race Crossing. We are still being promised a letter of intent from a company wishing to build on about 25 acres in the park as well as a potential spec building that would attract companies that are looking for short lead-time occupancy. Additional signage is being coordinated for location near the CVB and Titan Tire. GVA has launched a direct mail campaign this month that will hopefully generate a number of leads at the various trade shows being conducted this spring.
- The City of Freeport will be looking to approve a lease of land at the Freeport Airport to locate a new aviation business. This business should begin with a new 10,000 square foot hangar where they will refurbish aircraft. The business intends to expand in stages after the initial build. This will bring some new jobs to the Freeport area and will generate some property tax increment for Mill Race Crossing since the airport is in the County and in the EDPA.
- A request has been received for an e-zone expansion for HB Plastics to assist in the construction of a new facility on Henderson Road in rural Stephenson County. It is expected that this facility will be built this summer and employ approximately 140 people. The zone expansion request will be minimal since most of the property is already in the zone. The recommendation process on this project will be started at our Planning and Development meeting on March 31, 2008.
- The First Time Home Buyer Program is going very well. More than 110 new mortgages have been written under this program. The program is going so well that we are down to only \$150,000 left in our

bond allocation. We are working with the Illinois Housing Development Authority to attempt to secure some additional bond cap to carry us to the next allocation cycle.

- The County and City have begun work on a county-wide community housing assessment program. A letter is being sent to all Village Presidents within the County asking them to support and participate in such an initiative. We are planning a meeting on March 31, 2008 at the County Highway Building at 1 p.m. to outline the proposed process and solicit volunteers. The next meeting is planned for April 23 to create the group of partners that will design and guide the entire process. The purpose of this effort is to assess our current housing stock, identify needs, and combine resources to meet those needs. Chairman Blum is hoping all of the Villages get involved.
- The Lincoln-Douglas sesquicentennial celebration is being planned for Labor Day weekend in Freeport. The City and the area need to put on our best face because we will be host to a national audience. The Chair is going to ask the Public property Committee to insure that our courthouse and courthouse square are in the best shape to complement the festivities that will be held in the downtown area. If anybody has any suggestions on what should be done, please let Chairman Blum know.
- The Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner will be held March 13. The program will be about renewable energy projects in Stephenson County.

APPOINTMENTS

- Reappoint Diane Kerchner to Dakota Fire Protection District
- Reappoint Kevin Davis to Orangeville Fire Protection District
- Reappoint Brock Kent to Winslow Fire Protection District
- Reappoint Joe Geiter to Cedarville Fire Protection District
- Appoint Donald Parker to 9-1-1 Board

Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve the appointments as read. Second by Hilton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the appointments as read carried unanimously.*

Action Items from Standing Committee

Finance: Mr. Graham presented the following action items;

Resolution 08-03-1538 Surplus Property Transfer

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the resolution. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution disposing interest in property through our Delinquent Tax Agent carried unanimously.*

Proposal from Monson Nicholas, Inc. for correcting the sally port floor-boiler room ceiling problem

The proposal is to replace 50 square feet for \$27,125 with each additional square foot at \$90. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve funding the project, through the Capital Fund, not to exceed \$40,000. Second by Mr. Senn. Much discussion followed on concerns with setting a limit on the project. Chairman Blum felt it prudent to have a realistic cap on a project like this. He assured the Board, in the event unforeseen circumstances arise to cause the project to go over budget, county officials will be able to approve emergency funding so the project can be completed. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlmeier, Koch, Boynton, Cashmore, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve funding through the Capital fund, not to exceed \$40,000, to repair the sally port floor-boiler room ceiling carried unanimously.*

Administration: Ms. S. Hooper presented the following action items;

Proclamation for National County Government Week

April 6-12 is National County Government Week. This year's theme is "Protecting our Children". Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to proclaim April 6 – 12 as National County Government Week in Stephenson County. Second by Ms. Dotson. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the proclamation, declaring April 6-12 National County Government Week in Stephenson carried unanimously.*

Reiterate FOIA Policy

Ms. S. Hooper made an affirmation to reiterate the County's Freedom of Information Policy. The Chair called for a voice vote. *Reiteration of the County's Freedom of Information Policy carried unanimously.*

Raffles (all fees and bonding in order)

1441 VOICES, Manager Michelle Stubbe

1442 Northland Turkey Chasers, Manager Lenn M. Fogel

1443 Pearl City Homecoming, Manager Stanley K. Lott

Ms. S. Hooper made a motion to approve the Raffles. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. *The Chair called for a voice vote. Motion to approve the Raffles carried unanimously.*

Court Services: Ms. V. Hooper presented the following action item;

Resolution 08-03-1539 to amend the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget

This resolution approves transferring \$7,000 from the Contingency Account to the State's Attorney's budget to support the new Peer Jury program. Ms. V. Hooper made a motion to approve the Resolution. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. It was noted these are funds collected from the Youth Diversion Fees. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Cashmore, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve Resolution 08-03-1539 carried unanimously.*

Nursing Center: Ms. Kubatzke reported the Administrator's Contract has been reviewed by the State's Attorney and approved by Committee. Ms. Kubatzke made a motion to authorize Chairman Blum to sign the contract. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Cashmore, Détente, Senn and Blum. Twenty-two ayes. *Motion to approve authorizing Chairman Blum to sign the contract for the Nursing Center Administrator carried unanimously.*

Planning & Development: Mr. Mikkelsen presented the following action items;

Abrogate Wind Tower PILOT

Subsequent to the County adopting the PILOT "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" program, the State adopted a statute covering the assessment of wind generators. This statute creates a uniform method for assessing wind generators through out the state. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to abrogate the previously adopted "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" program. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve abolishing the previously adopted "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" program carried unanimously.*

Enterprise Zone Ordinance O08-03-1542 and Resolution 08-03-1541 for Eco-Grove

Mr. Mikkelsen explained the boundaries of the Enterprise Zone need to be expanded to accommodate the EcoGrove Wind Farms. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to approve adopting Ordinance O08-03-1542 and Resolution 08-03-1541. Second by Mr. Koch. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Ordinance O08-03-1542 and Resolution 08-03-1541 expanding the Enterprise Zone to accommodate the EcoGrove Wind Farms carried unanimously.*

Resolution 08-03-1540 encouraging the State of Illinois to release the funds appropriated for the Soil and Water Conservation districts

The State has delayed its release of funds appropriated for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Mr. Mikkelsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 08-03-1540. Second by Ms. S. Hooper. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve Resolution 08-03-1540 encouraging the State of Illinois to release the funds appropriated for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts carried unanimously.*

Information Items from Standing Committees

Finance: UCCI Annual Conference will be held July 28-29 at Eagle Ridge.

Court Services: The HOPE subcommittee is scheduled to meet again March 24 at 4:00 p.m. in the Law Library.

Nursing Center: The Annual Inspection is being conducted. The Bingo Bonanza was a great event. Chairman Blum will be taking Mr. Fortney to meet Dr. Perry week.

Planning and Development: The County Planning Commission met on March 3, 2008 to review the development of the EcoGrove Wind Farm, in the Northwest part of the County. The Commission

recommended that the Zoning Board of Appeals approve the special use request for 2008-5 wind towers, the special use request for 2008-4 electrical substation and the proposed Financial Assurance Plan, 2006-13. The Zoning Board is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. on March 17, 2008.

CLAIMS

Finance & Procurement	\$	612,325.60
Administration	\$	36,734.61
Public Works	\$	172,823.25
Nursing Center	\$	200,071.15
Public Property	\$	46,493.43
Court Services	\$	36,598.66
Public Safety	\$	64,150.96
Planning & Development	\$	614.18
9-1-1	\$	47,147.46

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Claims as presented. Second by Mr. Detente. The Chair called for a roll call vote on the motion. Members voting aye: Newton, Brown, Hilton, Mikkelsen, Devine, S. Hooper, McKenna, Hadley, Parker, V. Hooper, Graham, Wire, Dotson, J. Kuhlmeier, Kubatzke, A. Kuhlemeier, Koch, Boynton, Cashmore, D tente, Senn and Blum. Twenty ayes. *Motion to approve the Claims as presented carried unanimously.*

Mileage & Per Diems – *Subject to review by Finance Chairman*

Blum 8 days, 0 miles-Boynton 1 days, 9 miles-Brown 3 days, 8 miles-Cashmore 3 days, 60 miles-Detente 3 days, 39 miles-Devine 3 days, 10 miles-Dotson 3 days, 109 miles-Graham 7 days, 21 miles-Hadley 3 days, 14 miles- Hilton 4 days, 10 miles-S Hooper 4 days, 8 miles-V Hooper 4 days, 8 miles- Koch 3 days, 72 miles, Kubatzke 4 days, 92 miles-A Kuhlemeier 3 days, 95 miles-J Kuhlmeier 7 days, 158 miles-McKenna 3 days, 12 miles-Mikkelsen 4 days, 8 miles-Newton 3 days, 6 miles- Parker 2 days, 8 miles-Senn 4 days, 56 miles-Wire 3 days, 118 miles. Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the mileage and per diems. Second by Mr. Hilton. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to approve the mileage and per diems carried unanimously.*

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Koch suggested Chairman Blum request the Political Party Chairman to arrange for a Presidential Debate at the Lincoln-Douglas sesquicentennial celebration.

Brief discussion was held on our working relationship with NIDA. Chairman Blum stated that we speak with NIDA on a regular basis.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Mike King of 5003 N. Dakota Road, Dakota stated the purpose of their petition was to preserve public opinion. He commented on his lack of trust in the County Board and the legal debt he has incurred with the law suit.

Carol Johnson of 5003 N. Dakota Road, Dakota stated they made the choice to fight for their rights because of unfair and unequal treatment by the County Board. They now have a \$22,883 legal burden.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No executive session

ADJOURN UNTIL 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY APRIL 9, 2008:

Mr. Koch made a motion to adjourn until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday April 9, 2008. Second by Mr. A. Kuhlemeier. The Chair called for a voice vote on the motion. *Motion to adjourn carried at 8:43 p.m.*

Mr. J. Kuhlmeier will lead the Pledge and Ms. Kubatzke will be responsible for the Invocation at the April 9th Meeting